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**Political Science 306 Health Politics and Policies - *Online***  
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Summer 2023

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<b>Instructor</b>	<b>Dr. Saemyi Park</b> ( <a href="mailto:spark@uwsp.edu">spark@uwsp.edu</a> )  This course is an asynchronous online class, where your learning will take place on the course site in Canvas. The best way to communicate with me is via email. I will respond to your email within 48 hours during the weekdays. During the weekend, I may not be able to check my e-mail. In this case, you will hear from me on the following Monday.
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### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is designed to provide you with an overview of the U.S. health system, its components, and the players that challenge the health policies. My goal is to present broad perspectives for understanding the U.S. health system within historical, social, political, and economic contexts that shape the health of Americans.

Broadly, we will discuss the five aspects of U.S. health politics and policies throughout the course. First, we begin by discussing the major characteristics and the beliefs and values underpinning U.S. health politics and policies. Second, we delve into the history of the system, describing the initial development and evolution of the system (***Foundations***). Next, we focus on the structure and process of the U.S. health care system, addressing the types of care and special populations for special care (Process). Third, we learn about each of the components of the system, including human resources and nonhuman resources such as finance and reimbursement (***Resources***). Fourth, we devote some time to discussing the issues and concerns about U.S. health politics and policies (***Outcomes***). We end the course by discussing the future of our healthcare system (***Outlook***).

### **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

At the end of this course, you will:

- 1) Explain the components and workings of the U.S. health care system and the U.S. public health infrastructure
- 2) Understand the evolution of the U.S. health system and the influencing factors for the changes
- 3) Analyze the connections and interconnections between the components of the health care system
- 4) Identify the role of many players that have shaped the health politics
- 5) Scrutinize the complex socio-ecological issues that surround health and healthcare in America which create health disparities
- 6) Evaluate the existing health policies and recommend options for policy change.

## REQUIRED READINGS

The following book has been ordered at University Bookstore for textbook rental:

- Title: ***“Understanding Health Policy: A Clinical Approach”*** (7<sup>th</sup> ed.)
- Authors: **Thomas Bodenheimer** and **Kevin Grumbach**
- Publisher: **McGraw Hill**

I will also upload additional readings for each topic on the course site in Canvas.

## STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES & REQUIREMENTS

Since this is an online class, there is much more responsibility placed on the students in terms of active involvement and participation. You are highly recommended to log onto the course site in Canvas EVERY DAY during the session (four weeks) and are expected to complete the module activities by its deadline. If you need help, please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss how I assist your learning. You can request a zoom meeting with me if you put it in at least 48 hours in advance. I am here to help you!

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Requirements	Points
Introduce Yourself Video & Peer Reviews	20 pts
4 Module Quizzes (15 pts each)	60 pts
4 Module Activities (15 pts each)	60 pts
Health Plan Analysis Paper	30 pts
Analytic Essay	30 pts
Total	200 pts

You need to complete all the required work to be eligible to receive a passing grade in the course. You do NOT have the option to “take a zero” on each required work. Although you receive full credit for other assignments other than the papers, you would not pass the course if you do not submit the paper. If all assignments are not completed it will result either in a final grade of incomplete until the work is submitted or an F for the course. But, please be aware of the policy that the former option (an Incomplete grade = I) is rarely given to students for extraordinary circumstances.

Please visit this page for more information about the UWSP Incomplete Policy:

<https://www3.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Incompletes.aspx>

## GRADING SCALE

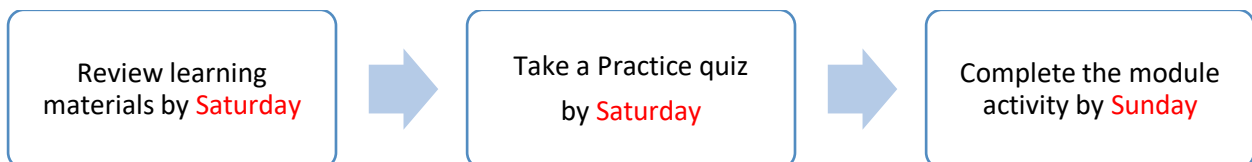
Grades will be determined according to the university's standard scale. If you meet the basic requirements for assignments, you can expect to pass the course. If you want an A or B, you need to go above and beyond the exact requirements for an assignment. There is NO curve.

Criteria	Letter Grade	Points Range
<b>Outstanding</b>	A	188 to 200 points
	A-	180 to 187 points
<b>Above average</b>	B+	174 to 179 points
	B	166 to 173 points
	B-	160 to 165 points
<b>Average</b>	C+	154 to 159 points
	C	146 to 153 points
	C-	140 to 145 points
<b>Below average</b>	D+	134 to 139 points
	F	133 points and below

## COURSE FORMAT

When you visit the course site in Canvas, you will see **FIVE Modules**. During the 4-week semester, we will cover five modules. Module 1 is the introduction of the course, and you are invited to meet your classmates via "video presentations". These activities ("Introduce Yourself Forum" & Peer Reviews) in Module 1 are also a part of graded assignments. For the remaining modules (M2-M5), we will cover the main subjects regarding the U.S. Health Politics and Policies. Each module is supposed to be completed within a week.

Although the official class period of POLI 306 starts on June 26 (Monday) and ends on July 21 (Friday), I extended a few more days to the course calendar to make **each week repeat the same format (M2-M5)**. In this way, **you can easily follow the course**. That is, the last day of our class will be July 23 (Sunday).



Note that M1 activities have different deadlines. Please see the course calendar for more information.

## ASSIGNMENTS

- **Practice Quiz:** you will **review learning materials and take a module quiz by Saturday**. For a maximum outcome, you should read the chapters BEFORE you begin each module. After reading the chapters, please review learning materials such as PowerPoint slides with my voice lecture, videos, articles, data, and others. A module quiz is a learning tool to help you see how well you understand the course material.
- **Module Activities:** you need to **complete the module activity by Sunday**. The module activity could be the discussion forum where you are invited to express your opinion or a brief analysis of the given data or something else that is related to the topic of the module. Whatever the activity it is, clear instruction will be provided in the module. Reviewing the textbook chapter and learning materials is sufficient to complete a module activity.
- **Health Plan Evaluation Paper:** you are invited to evaluate your own health insurance plan according to the criteria provided by the instructor. **This assignment requires that you have access to your health plan documentation**. Please locate this document as soon as possible. If it is impossible for you to access your health plan, please email me with an explanation by 11:59 PM, June 28 (Wednesday) so that I can assign you a randomly selected plan widely used in Wisconsin. But, try to find your own health insurance plan first. Please check the course site in Canvas for the complete paper guideline.
- **Analytic Essay:** You are invited to watch the documentary featuring several topics discussed in class and write an analytic essay. Please check the course site in Canvas for the complete paper guideline.

## GENERAL RULES

**All modules will be open at once, so you can complete them in advance if you want.** Any unexcused late submission will be downgraded (10% for each day it is late). Late work will be accepted up to 4 days from its original deadline. Please note that **late work for Module 5 activities** (Practice Quiz & Assignment) **and the analytic essay will be accepted by July 25** (Tuesday).

If you miss the deadline of any activities for unforeseen reasons, please contact me as soon as possible. I understand that students may encounter unplanned and unfortunate circumstances. Extension decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis and require proof of documentation.

Any instance of academic misconduct will be taken seriously and may result in failure of the course. Misconduct will result in notification to the Dean of Students. If you are having a problem, it is much better to talk to me about it. Do not struggle by yourself. I want you to learn and do well on this course. Please email me as soon as possible if you are having a problem, so I can try to help you work out a solution.

## Module Plan and Assigned Readings

Readings and plans are subject to change by the instructor.  
If so, clear communication about the change will be offered to students.

<b>Module</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Subtopics</b>	<b>Readings</b>
<b>I. Foundations</b>	June 26-July 2	Characteristics History	Ch. 1 & Ch. 17 Ch. 16
<b>II. Process</b>	July 3-July 9	Structure Access to Healthcare	Ch. 5 & Ch. 6 Ch. 3
<b>III. Resources</b>	July 10-16	Healthcare Finance Cost Controlling Human Resources	Ch. 2 & Ch. 4 Ch. 8 & Ch. 9 Ch. 7 & Ch. 13
<b>IV. Outcomes &amp; Outlook</b>	July 17-July 23	Quality Different Needs Healthcare in other countries Reform & Change	Ch. 10 Ch. 11 & Ch. 12 Ch. 14 Ch. 15

**Note:** Although several chapters are assigned to each module, each chapter is relatively very short and easy to read. Each chapter also includes many figures and tables. Therefore, you can easily manage to complete these readings.

## Course Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	26 <b>First day of class</b>  <b>Module 1 &amp; 2 begins.</b>	27	28 <b>Due:</b> Read syllabus & information on the course site  <b>Due:</b> Complete "Introduce Yourself Forum"	29	30	1 <b>Due:</b> Review learning materials in Module 2  <b>Due:</b> "Practice Quiz #1"
2 <b>Due:</b> Peer Reviews to other students "Introduce Yourself Forum"  <b>Due:</b> "Healthcare Consumers vs Patients Forum"	3 <b>Module 3 begins.</b>	4	5	6	7	8 <b>Due:</b> Review learning materials in Module 3  <b>Due:</b> "Practice Quiz #2"
9  <b>Due:</b> Submit "Health Disparities Data Analysis"  <b>Due: Paper I - "Health Plan Evaluation"</b>	10 <b>Module 4 begins.</b>	11	12	13	14	15 <b>Due:</b> Review learning materials in Module 4  <b>Due:</b> "Practice Quiz #3"
16 <b>Due:</b> Submit "News Stories of Medical Ethics"	17 <b>Module 5 begins.</b>	18	19	20	21	22 <b>Due:</b> Review learning materials in Module 5  <b>Due:</b> "Practice Quiz #4"
23 <b>Due:</b> Submit "Comparative Analysis of Healthcare systems"  <b>Due: Paper II - "Analytic Essay on The Healthcare Divide"</b>	24	25				